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been very high, and there has been no rain for nearly seven months. From statistics of the temperature, I judge that the coming rainy season (which begins the latter part of this month) will be ushered in with, and accompanied by, a severe epidemic. But this is borrowing trouble. The present sanitary condition of the town is very bad, the fever is getting progressively worse, and the mortality for the past three weeks has increased more than 100 per cent weekly. The number of cases officially reported are not reliable; that is, they do not represent the number of cases in the city. Many cases are treated by members of the household with domestic remedies and very few hear of the case.

Post-convalescent, disinfection, and fumigation are seldom practiced and are not compulsory.

I can see no effort on the part of the authorities to suppress the epidemic. The passenger traffic from here to Havana is very large—weekly steamers. The authorities have declared yellow fever epidemic in this port to-day.

Yours very truly,

SAM'L H. HODGSON,

*Acting Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.*

The SUPERVISING SURVEYOR-GENERAL,

*U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.*

#### NICARAGUA.

*Sanitary report from Bluefields for week ended May 2, 1899.*

BLUEFIELDS, NICARAGUA, *May 2, 1899.*

SIR: I have the honor to report that the health of Bluefields and surrounding country continues good. The case of smallpox reported some weeks ago has recovered, and only 1 other case has been reported by the physician in charge of the soldiers, to which class both of the sick men belonged. The steamship company cabled to New Orleans for vaccine virus, and immediately on its arrival Dr. Woods, of the Louisiana State board of health, and myself vaccinated all laborers and stevedores engaged in loading the fruit vessels.

Very respectfully, yours,

D. W. GOODMAN,

*Acting Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.*

The SUPERVISING SURGEON-GENERAL,

*U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.*

#### TURKEY.

*Sanitary report from Constantinople.*

[Report No. 216.]

CONSTANTINOPLE, *May 2, 1899.*

SIR: According to the official news the number of pilgrims thronged in Mecca for the holy days of Bairam is 200,000. Of these only 30,849 have arrived by sea, 60,000 or 70,000 have arrived by land from Yemen, Mejid, and Bagdad, and 100,000 bedoes, who proceed to the Hedjaz for their pilgrimage, but at the same time they pick up the lambs massacred by the pilgrims, and with the lambs other things, if they can.

*Bubonic plague in the Hedjaz.*—The holy days there are already over, and no more than 3 bubonic plague cases have occurred in Mecca, as I have already reported. Of these not one proved fatal. No bubonic

plague cases in Medina, nor at Mouna. On the contrary, at Djiddah, fresh plague cases are observed nearly every day. Up to April 28, 118 deaths from said disease have been registered.

*Measures to prevent the spread of plague by returning pilgrims.*—Now the danger of the spread of bubonic plague is in the return back of the pilgrims, therefore, fresh measures have been taken by which the quarantine regulations are reinforced. I forward to-day a printed French copy of said measures in which the details of the quarantine and disinfection of the belongings of the pilgrims are fully given. There is no doubt the sanitary officials will, as always, do their duty, and they will detect it if there should be any case of said disease. But the question is not there, it is in the more or less imperfect sanitary condition of the country.

*Sanitary condition of Constantinople.*—The town of Constantinople, for instance, is as dirty as it can be. Some of the foreign sanitary representatives have brought said question of the unsanitary condition of our town before the International Sanitary Commission, and have proposed to refer the question to His Majesty, the Sultan. A long discussion took place, in which, among other things, there was question about the sewers of Constantinople, which are badly built; about the filthiness of the streets which are rarely swept; about the condition of the lavatories of the mosques which are as filthy and dirty as they can be, and that on purpose; because the water pipes existing in every mosque, by which abundant water was supplied not long since, have been broken and as a consequence the water for washing must be bought from certain men who stay outside of said lavatories and sell for 10 paras, that is, one fourth of one cent, nearly half a pint of water. They make their living by it. We must not forget that the Christian churches were, many centuries since, provided with abundant water, and no one could enter the church before washing himself. Now said custom does not exist any more, there are only the Roman Catholics who preserve the vestige, by having in the entrance of the churches the holy water receiver, in which they soak their fingers. So it was stated that the lavatories of the mosques are a spring of infectious diseases, never being cleansed on account of the lack of water. In said discussion it was stated, that the existence of so many cases of typhoid fever must be attributed to said most unsanitary condition of Constantinople. I added that since street dust is so dangerous, therefore the authorities ought to take the necessary steps and not only water the streets very often in order to prevent dust, but they must wet the walls of the houses being pulled down in the main streets of the capital, by which it is impossible to pass on account of the dust. It has been decided to refer the question to the local authorities. It was on the 15th of last April that said discussion took place, but we have not seen any effect on the cleanliness of the town. It is to be hoped, though, that the sanitary condition not only of Constantinople, but of all the Empire, will be improved and that bubonic plague will not make its appearance anywhere in Turkey.

*Russian inspection of the Turkish sanitary establishments.*—The lazarettos of Turkey are in fairly good order. The Russian Government, which is interested in the good sanitary conditions of this country, has appointed a Moslem physician, Dr. Mohamed Tlass of Volatoff, to inspect said lazarettos and report on their condition to his Government. On his way to the Red Sea he passed through Constantinople. During

his stay here he has stated that the germ of bubonic plague, which broke out in Anzob, near Samarcand (Russian Central Asia), was spread by merchandise imported from Kurachee (India). Dr. Mohamed Tlass of Volatoff is not the first physician forwarded by the Russian Government to inspect the sanitary establishments of Turkey and other neighboring places. I have already reported what Colonel Artamonoff has stated on said subject and on the illusive quarantine at Aden. The English sanitary representative did not agree with Mr. Artamonoff's statements and made a communication on the subject, a French copy of which I have the honor to forward inclosed. Said communication, as it can be seen, is followed by the answer of Dr. Karakanowsky, the Russian sanitary representative.

*Transportation of dead bodies from Persia to Turkey.*—At its last sitting the International Sanitary Commission decided to allow the transportation to Turkey of the dead body of a high-standing Persian and bury it at the holy place of Mejeff. Said transportation can not be permitted, according to the regulations, until three years after the death has occurred, in order to prevent the importation of infectious diseases.

*Sanitary news from the provinces.*—The official sanitary news from the provinces states that public health in Mecca is good. At Haneguine, near Bagdad, on the Tuco-Persian frontier, smallpox is raging. There is no vaccine there for vaccination, and on account of the heat and great distance it is not easy to have it supplied from the capital. I proposed, therefore, at the last sitting of the International Sanitary Commission, to show to the Turkish Government the necessity of establishing in Bagdad an institute which could provide calf lymph. I proposed at the same time that each sanitary office ought to be supplied with meteorological instruments, 1 barometer, 1 hygrometer, and 1 thermometer in order to be informed of the meteorological changes of the Empire. It has been decided to forward them only 1 thermometer.

*Death rate of Constantinople.*—The number of deaths registered in Constantinople from April 10 to April 24 is 510. Of these 1 is from diphtheria, 2 from measles, 12 from smallpox, and 10 from typhoid fever. There are many cases of diphtheria, but they are of a very mild character, therefore the small number of diphtheria deaths. Last week, after several days of hot and sultry weather, a sudden change and a fall of the temperature occurred, the consequence of which was many colds and inflammations of the respiratory organs. During the above-mentioned period the number of deaths from said inflammations of the respiratory organs was 70.

Respectfully, yours,

SPIRIDION C. ZAVITZIANO,  
*United States Sanitary Commissioner.*

The SUPERVISING SURGEON-GENERAL,  
*U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.*

*Communication made by the English delegate at the session of the Superior Council of Health,  
April 18, 1899.*

[Inclosure No. 1.]

In a communication to the council at the session of March 28 the Russian delegate said: "Quarantine at Aden exists in name only; vessels arrive there daily from India with sick; they remain in port one or two days, receive pratique, and leave for Europe. Bodies of persons dead with plague on board these vessels are thrown into the sea."

This statement is in contradiction to the official declarations which I have had the honor to make to the council, and tends to arouse distrust in regard to the conduct of the sanitary authorities at Aden with regard to arrivals from India.

Consequently I beg M. Karacomowsky to specify the facts stated by Colonel Artamonoff which prompted this assertion.

I also request M. Karacomowsky to inform the council whether his communication of March 28 last was made on his own personal responsibility or by direction of his government.

*Reply of the Russian delegate to the preceding communication.*

Dr. Karacomowsky, in response to the request of the English delegate, declared himself unable to satisfy his demand before receiving the report of Colonel Artamonoff, which was momentarily expected. The communication, he added, which I had the honor to make to the council, was the result of an interview between his excellency the Russian ambassador and Colonel Artamonoff, an interview at which I assisted. On my request to his excellency for authority to communicate to the council, the verbal declarations of Colonel Artamonoff, such authority was granted me.

*Special quarantine requirements for pilgrims returning from the Hedjaz by way of the sea, to be put in force in the Ottoman ports of the Red Sea.*

[Inclosure No. 2.]

1. Inasmuch as pilgrims returning from the Hedjaz by way of the Mediterranean are subject to quarantine at the Egyptian lazaretto of Tor, their treatment at Ottoman ports of the Mediterranean shall be determined by the nature of the sanitary conditions presented by each group of pilgrims during their stay at the said lazaretto.

All pilgrims arriving from the littoral of the Hedjaz comprised between Yambo and Lith, inclusive, and who have presented no case of plague during the period of detention passed at the lazaretto of Tor, shall undergo a five days' quarantine of observation, with disembarkation of themselves and all their effects at the pilgrim lazaretto. An individual medical visit shall be rigorously exacted on arrival of the said pilgrims.

2. The lazarettos designed exclusively for the reception of pilgrims are: Beirut for pilgrims from Syria; Tripoli, in Africa, for Tripolitan pilgrims; Clazomenes (near Smyrna), for pilgrims from Asiatic Turkey and Europe.

3. Disinfection of the clothing and effects of pilgrims shall be begun as soon as possible after the publication of the special regulations for the pilgrimage of 1899. All effects contained in boxes or packages shall be disinfected in the stove, and afterwards exposed to the sun and air. Vessels shall be disinfected in conformity with the requirements of the said special regulations.

4. Free pratique shall be accorded to pilgrims only after individual medical inspection. After said medical inspection, all sick persons shall be removed to the hospital, and there kept until their complete cure is effected.

5. Pilgrim vessels destined for Constantinople shall, on their arrival at the Dardanelles, be subject to strict medical inspection. All sick found on board shall be removed to hospital.

6. As regards the groups of pilgrims among which plague cases have appeared at the lazaretto of Tor the duration of quarantine shall be extended for as many days as the conditions require, subject in each case to decision of the Superior Council of Health. Moreover, the clothing and effects of pilgrims shall be thrice disinfected at specified places, the duration of each process of disinfection being the same.

7. In case plague shall appear on board of vessels during the voyage from Tor, whether on arrival at the lazaretto or after disembarkation, or during stay at the lazaretto, all the requirements of the special pilgrim regulations with regard to infected vessels shall be put rigorously in force. Free pratique shall be accorded vessel and pilgrims only on consent of the Superior Council of Health.

In addition to the requirements just enumerated the civil authorities of each vilayet shall be advised, by the proper authority, to demand of each returning pilgrim the quarantine certificate furnished him at one of the three lazarettos of Beirut, Tripoli in Africa, or Clazomenes. In case of a pilgrim not being provided with the said certificate, the said pilgrim shall be prohibited communication with the town and strictly isolated in a specified place for a period of at least fifteen days. Physicians at the lazarettos shall be directed to warn pilgrims not to destroy their certificates.

In addition, all returned pilgrims shall, for at least one month, be under oversight by the police as regards their state of health, and information shall be immediately given the municipality of the least indisposition observed among these pilgrims.

In case of a plague outbreak, duly declared, the most rigorous measures of isolation shall be taken as regards the sick and the persons with whom the sick have held communication, and the sanitary service of the Ottoman Empire shall be informed of the facts by telegraph.

Pilgrims arriving at Constantinople, but whose destination is the interior of the country or the littoral of the Black Sea, shall be requested by the civil authorities to delay as short a time as possible in the capital.

Approved by the Superior Council of Health at the session of April 25, 1899.